AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:

a wire member including a first wire disposed on the distal side of said wire member and a second wire disposed on the proximal side from said first wire,

the first wire and the second wire each possessing an end face, the end face of the first wire and the end face of the second wire being welded to one another at a welded portion so that the first and second wires do not axially overlap one another; ~~and~~

a cover layer provided on the outer periphery of said wire member and covering said welded portion between said first wire and said second wire; and

wherein the cover layer is formed such that the wire member is substantially not heated at a time of covering the wire member with the cover layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:

a wire member including a welded portion formed by welding a first wire disposed on the distal side of said wire member to a second wire disposed on the proximal side from said first wire;

a cover layer provided on the outer periphery of said wire member covering said welded portion between said first wire and said second wire; and

a distal-side cover layer disposed on the distal side from said cover layer, said distal-side cover layer being made from a material different from that of said cover layer;

wherein the cover layer and the distal-side cover layer do not axially overlap one another; and

wherein the cover layer is formed such that the wire member is substantially not heated at a time of covering the wire member with the cover layer.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer is made from a material that reduces friction of the cover layer.

8. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer is made from a fluorocarbon resin or hydrophilic material.

9. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer is made from a silicone resin.

10. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, where the cover layer is made from a metal having an elastic modulus that is equal to or smaller than that of the first wire.

11. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the cover layer is within the range of 1 to 2 μm and is uniform throughout the cover layer.

12. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the cover layer covering the welded portion is uniform.

13. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the cover layer extends across the welded portion and has a thickness that is uniform from a proximal end of the welded portion to a distal end of the welded portion.

14. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the first wire is made from a superelastic alloy and the second wire is made from stainless steel.

15. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the second wire is made from a Co-based alloy and the Co-based alloy is a Co--Ni--Cr alloy.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the cover layer is made from a material that reduces friction of the cover layer.

18. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the cover layer is made from a fluorocarbon resin or hydrophilic material.

19. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the cover layer is made from a silicone resin.

20. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, where the cover layer is made from a metal having an elastic modulus that is equal to or smaller than that of the first wire.

21. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of the cover layer is within the range of 1 to 2 μm and is uniform throughout the cover layer.

22. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of the cover layer covering the welded portion is uniform.

23. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the cover layer covers the welded portion and has a thickness that is uniform from a proximal end of the welded portion to a distal end of the welded portion.

24. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the first wire is made from a superelastic alloy and the second wire is made from stainless steel.

25. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the second wire is made from a Co-based alloy and the Co-based alloy is a Co--Ni--Cr alloy.

26. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein a connection end face of the first wire and a connection end face of the second wire at which the first and second wires and welded are each perpendicular to an axial direction of the first and second wires, and the welding between the first and second connection end faces is performed by a butt resistance welding process.

27. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the distal-side cover layer is made from a material that reduces friction of the distal-side cover layer.

28. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the distal-side cover layer is made from a fluorocarbon resin or hydrophilic material.

29. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the average thickness of the distal-side cover layer is in the range of 1 to 20 μm.

30. (New) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein the second wire is made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than that of the first wire.

31. (New) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the second wire is made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than that of the first wire.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A guide wire according to claim 3, wherein the distal-side cover layer is formed such that the wire member is heated at a time when the wire member is covered by the distal-side cover layer.